

# **MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

**March 30, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Deborah Blackwell, Kara Burkins, Sheryl Deares, Elwood DeHaven, Brittany Gregory, Beth Jones, Catherine Kansler, Robin Keener, Susan Kelly, Sharon Lipford, Mary Ann Lisanti, Diane Lutz, Patrick McCracken, Jamshid Mian M.D., Gilbert Miller, Jane O'Hara, Christin Rocha, Joe Ryan, Tracy Schafer, Lorraine Upton, Linda Williams

**Robin Keener** chaired the meeting.

The minutes from the meeting of January 26, 2010 were submitted to the council and motioned for approval.

Presentation of Fred Hatem's plaque will be rescheduled due to his absence.

**Robin Keener** stated transportation and homelessness are a common factor for everyone at the table. **Robin Keener's** vision involves committees coming together and creating a unique strategic plan that does not duplicate the plans submitted by the Division of Addiction Services and the Core Service Agency, Office on Mental Health.

**Joe Ryan** suggested including transportation.

**Robin Keener** asked if site visits were of any interest to other council members. The answer was affirmative so site visits to providers and various support services will be scheduled to occur in lieu of the regular MHAAC meeting.

**Robin Keener** requested that the minutes be approved and disbursed by email prior to the MHAAC meetings instead of reviewing them at the meeting.

**Guest Jane O'Hara** spoke about the program Changing Lives which was introduced by the Sheriff. The goal is to increase safety for the community and reduce recidivism.

**Guest Gilbert Miller** responded that inmates are not prepared for the transition to a halfway house upon release. The goal of Changing Lives is to develop a plan for a healthy lifestyle and preparation for a successful release and a functional life in the community. The program focuses on behavioral skills, life skills, release planning, and support and monitoring.

**Patrick McCracken** introduced Single Step, a county based, community- based, congregation- based, and inclusive coalition.

**Robin Keener** asked for a status report from Deborah Blackwell in regards to her supportive houses and from Tracy Schafer in regards to the HOPE Project.

**Deborah Blackwell** reported that the women are not released from jail when scheduled.

**Tracy Schafer** reviewed the scope of the HOPE project. The project is a 3 year project and is ½ way through.

**Elwood DeHaven** offered that the issue of release dates is an issue between state and local facilities.

**Joe Ryan** reported that DUI Court, Family Drug Court, Adult Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court are all available to help decrease incarceration. The Mental Health Court is available to also keep individuals out of jail. 100 people per year are served.

**Linda Williams** reported that ACR needs money. They find placement for individuals at a reduced rate.

**Joe Ryan** reported that 90% are repeat offenders of the 100 offenders served a year through the drug courts.

**Mary Ann Lisanti** questioned what she should do in order to help juveniles.

**Joe Ryan** reports that Parks and Recreation is not inviting groups to use their facilities due to potential surface scratches.

**Mary Ann Lisanti** reported she would address the Parks and Recreation issue.

**Tracy Schafer** reported that MSAP (Maryland Student Assistance Program) refers few adolescents to the Health Department for services.

**Dr. Jamshid Mian** reported that 12-14 year olds learn much more than 14-16 year olds and we should focus on success stories.

**Tracy Schafer** updated the Council on grant and budget activities. The Drug Court budget which has been reduced by more than \$11,000.00 for FY10 and this reduction will carry over to FY11. Additional FY11 reductions for the Treatment Block Grant include a \$142,000.00 reduction to accommodate the PAC expansion and a \$33,500.00 efficiency reduction. There is a total FY11 award for the Treatment Block Grant is \$2,022,000.00. For the Drug Court Grant, the total award is \$151,000.00. There were four lost staff in FY10 which served to offset reductions.

**Tracy Schafer** reported that the Adolescent Addictions program will potentially relocate to 120. S. Hays Street to further consolidate services.

**Sharon Lipford** reported there has been a \$700,000.00 grant cut. The OMH seems to get an approval to carry funds over to next year's funds with permission. The closing of two hospitals has been removed from consideration. Under consideration is a 30-day supply of medication for inmates upon release. Trainings for detention center personnel for mental health and Critical Incident Stress Management will be held on April 18 & 19. The trainings will be held at the Abingdon Fire Hall and is free and lunch is provided. All citizens are welcome.

**Diane Lutz** reported that they are tracking offenders requiring substance abuse treatment for the first 60 days of supervision. When the offender is assessed and tested, a positive result indicates testing 2x/week for four weeks, then reduced to 1x/week for the next four weeks, then randomly (1x/ 4 months).

**Patrick McCracken** reported that St. Margaret's Church will host a Family Anonymous group.

**Adjournment**